

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 05591 122313Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4508
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 5591

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, AFIN, GH
SUBJ: PANAM SERVICE TO GHANA

REF: (A) KINSHASA 7005; (B) STATE 163528; (C) ACCRA 4628

1. MR. REDPATH OF PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS, NEW YROK,
THE DIRECTOR OF PANAM HERE MET WITH THE CHARGE AND COMMERCIAL
OFFICER JULY 7 TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE COMPANY'S BLOCKED
FUNDS AND OPERATIONS IN GHANA. THE PANAM OFFICIALS
NOTED THAT THE IATA CURRENCY SUBCOMMITTEE WAS IN ACCRA
TO INVESTIGATE THE EXCESSIVE DELAY IN THE REPATRIATION
OF AIRLINES' NET RECEIPTS FROM THE COUNTRY. IN MAY 1977
THE GOG AGREED ON A PROGRAM TO BRING THESE REMITTANCES
UP TO DATE, BUT HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE TERMS. THE
IATA COMMITTEE MET WITH THE COMMISSIONERS OF FINANCE
AND OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, WHILE BANK OF GHANA
OFFICIALS DECLINED TO MEET WITH THE GROUP. ACCORD-
ING TO THE PANAM OFFICIALS, THE IATA CURRENCY SUBCOMMITTEE
ASKED THE GOG TO COMPLY WITH LAST YEAR'S AGREEMENT
BY AUGUST 15, 1978, BUT THE COMMISSIONERS WERE NON-
COMMITTAL.

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2. REGARDING PANAM'S FUNDS, THE DIRECTOR OBSERVED
THAT UNDER THE MAY 1977 PROGRAM, THE GOG ARREARAGES TO
PANAM ARE DLS 1.59 MILLION (THROUGH NOV. 1977). IT
WAS NOTED THAT PANAM HAS DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE SERVICE
TO KINSHASA (REFTEL A) AND MR. REDPATH ADDED THAT HIS
FIRM WOULD NOW FOCUS ON ITS OPERATIONS IN GHANA. UNLESS
THE COMPANY CAN REPATRIATE ITS NET PROCEEDS IN A MORE

REGULAR AND EXPEDITIOUS WAY, IT WILL BE FORCED TO DIS-
CONTINUE SERVICE TO ACCRA. THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USG
BUYING PANAMAS BLOCKED FUNDS WAS MENTIONED AND EMBOFFS
RECOMMENDED THAT THE FIRM APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE
OFFICES IN STATE AND TREASURY IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL B).
THE COMPANY IS PROCEEDING WITH PLANS FOR CONVERSION TO
DOEING 747 AIRCRAFT ON THE WEST AFRICAN ROUTE ON
DECEMBER 15, 1977.

3. COMMENT. COINCIDENTALLY,THE EVENING NEWS BROADCAST
JULY 11 ANNOUNCED THAT BOTH THE COMMISSIONERS OF FINANCE
AND OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN REPLACED
(TO BE REPORTED SEPTTEL). THESE CHANGES PROMISE TO FURTHER
DELAY GOG ACTION ON
THE AIRLINES' REMITTANCE PROBLEM.
HOLMES

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